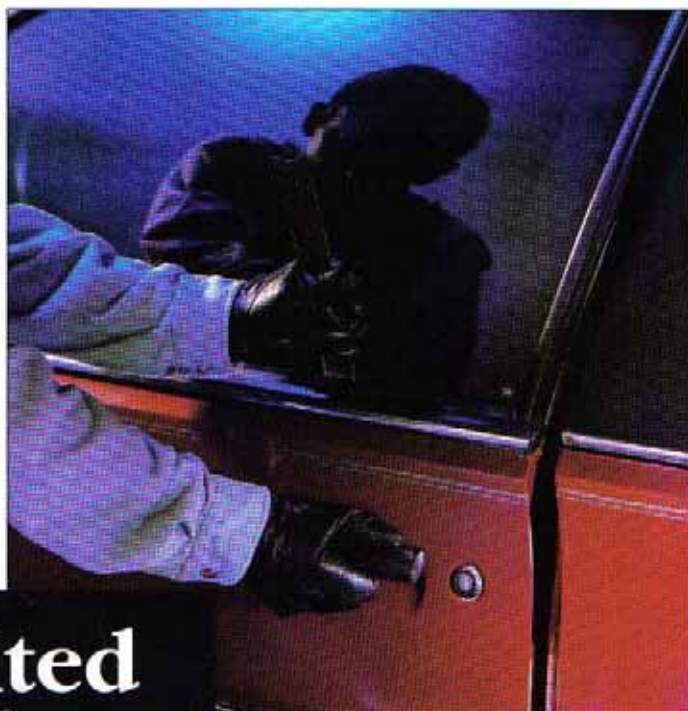
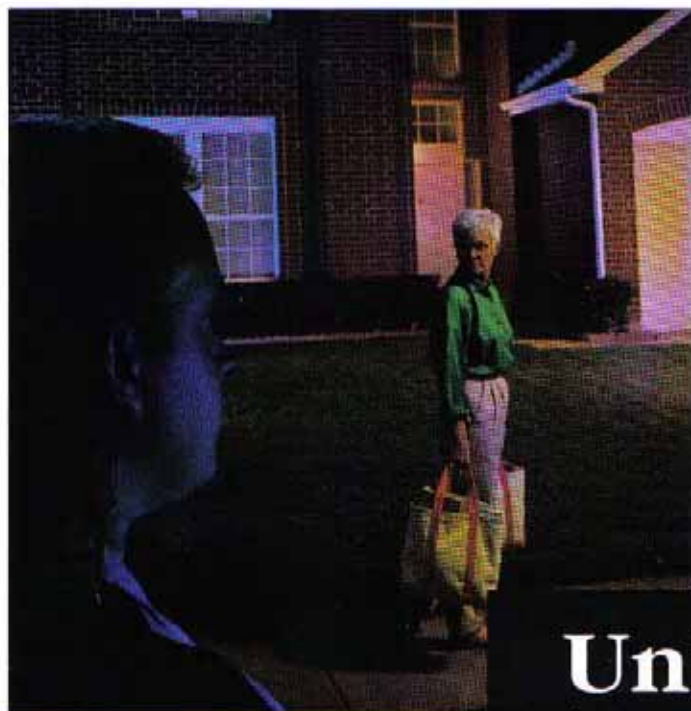
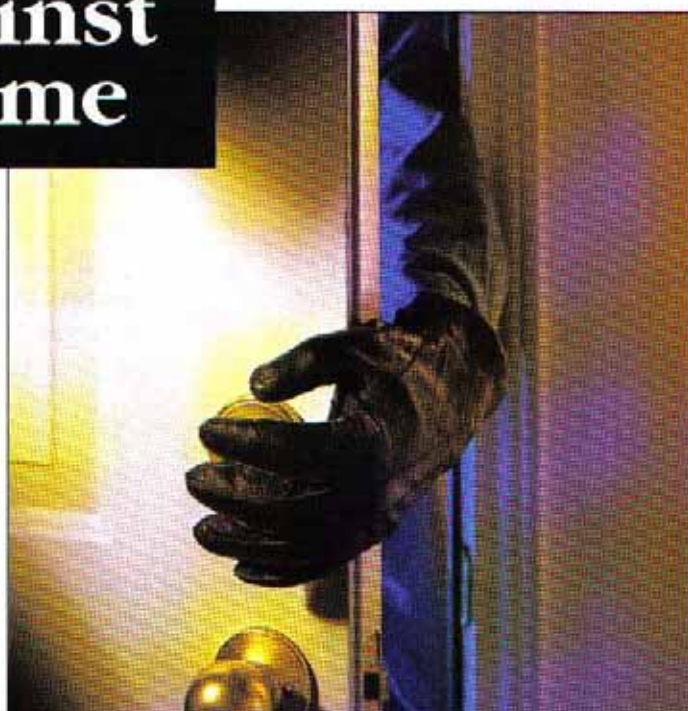
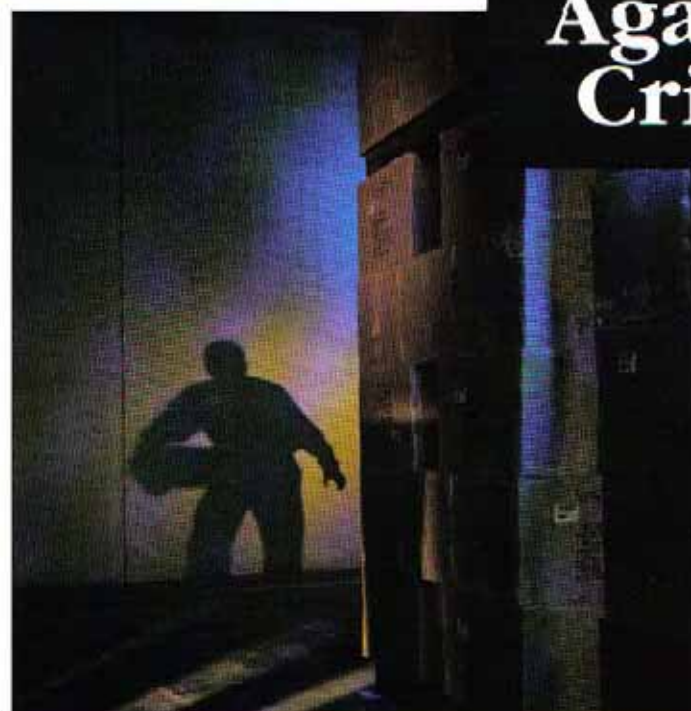


You can help keep this from happening to you.



**United  
Against  
Crime**



National Crime  
Prevention Council



**RadioShack®**

If security is the question, we've got the answer.



National Sheriffs'  
Association



## Not alone, Not afraid— United Against Crime

Concerned about crime? Worried that your neighborhood is not as safe as you want it to be? Feel alone against the threat of criminals?

If you follow some simple steps to help yourself and your family—and work with neighbors in your community—you can reduce crime and feel safer. That's what we mean by "United Against Crime"—you are not alone, not afraid.

It works! By watching out for yourselves and each other, and by helping out—working to solve common problems in the neighborhood—you really can reduce violence,

drugs and other crimes. People working together have reclaimed sidewalks from hoodlums, restored parks to safe havens for children, created positive outlets for youthful energy and enthusiasm, driven away drug dealers, decreased violence and convinced schools to set up before- and after-school programs for kids.

RadioShack has formed a special alliance with the National Crime Prevention Council (which manages the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign) and the National Sheriffs' Association in order

to provide you with simple answers for security that can help make your life safer.

This booklet is brought to you by RadioShack, working together with these leading organizations to help you create or foster a safe community, where children can enjoy childhood and adults can participate without fear—the kind of community each of us wants to live and work in.

Join RadioShack, the National Crime Prevention Council and the National Sheriffs' Association—United Against Crime.



### RadioShack



National  
Crime Prevention  
Council



National  
Sheriffs'  
Association



# Personal safety

## Three simple rules of safety

- ☐ Stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings, wherever you are. Don't be taken by surprise. Be aware and be prepared.
- ☐ Stand tall and walk confidently. Don't show fear. Don't look like a victim.
- ☐ Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave right away and get help if necessary.

## On foot

- ☐ Choose busy streets and avoid going through vacant lots, alleys, or other deserted areas. At night, walk in well-lighted areas whenever possible.
- ☐ Try not to walk or jog alone. Take a friend or neighbor along for company.
- ☐ Get to know the neighborhoods and neighbors where you live and work. Find out what stores and restaurants are open

late and where the police and fire stations are located.

- ☐ Carry your purse close to your body and keep a firm grip on it. Avoid pickpockets by carrying your wallet in an inside coat pocket or front-trouser pocket.

## In your car

- ☐ Always lock your car and take the keys, even if you'll be gone only a short time.
- ☐ Keep your car in good running condition, and keep the tank at least a quarter full; lock doors while driving.
- ☐ If your car breaks down, raise the hood and place emergency reflectors or flares. Then stay in the locked car. When someone stops to help, don't get out. Ask him or her, through a closed or cracked window, to telephone the police to come and help.
- ☐ If you're coming or going after dark, park in a well-lighted area that will still be well-lighted when you return.
- ☐ Be especially alert when using enclosed parking garages. Don't walk into an area if you feel uncomfortable.
- ☐ Leave only your ignition key with a parking attendant. Don't

leave your house key or other keys on the key ring.

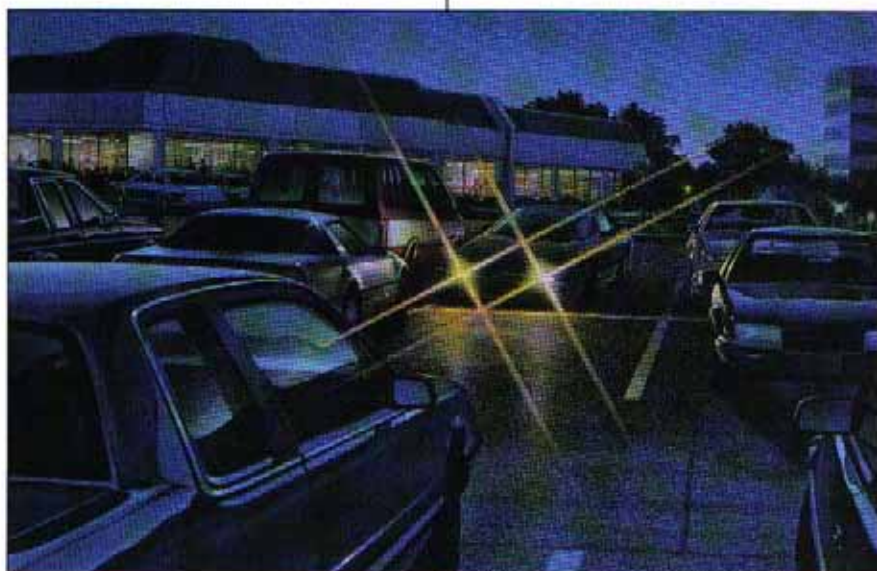
- ☐ Never pick up hitchhikers. *Never.* And don't hitch rides yourself.

## When using public transportation

- ☐ When using the bus or subway, be sure to have your fare out and ready before you leave home, office, or store.
- ☐ Plan your route to use the busiest, best-lighted stop possible, both to get on and off a bus or subway. If you must wait, stay near the attendant's stand or in the best-lighted area available.
- ☐ Keep your purse, shopping bag, backpack, packages, etc., in your lap, on your arm, or between your feet—not by themselves on an empty seat.
- ☐ Sit near the driver or operator, but not right next to the door.
- ☐ Don't let yourself doze off on a bus or subway. It can make you an easy target.

## When using an ATM machine

- ☐ Try to plan your visits to automatic teller machines during the day, rather than after dark.
- ☐ Choose an ATM location that is in a busy public place. Avoid making withdrawals in isolated areas.
- ☐ If at all possible, take along a friend who can watch the surroundings while you are conducting your transaction.
- ☐ Pre-plan your transaction carefully, and don't spend too much time at the machine.
- ☐ When you make a withdrawal, quickly place the money in your purse or wallet and leave as soon as you finish your transaction.
- ☐ Watch out for suspicious-looking people waiting around an ATM—they may not really be customers. If someone offers to





let you go ahead of them, decline politely and leave.

☐ When visiting a drive-through ATM, keep your doors locked and be prepared to drive away quickly. If anyone approaches your car on foot, roll up your window and drive off.

☐ If you have not finished your transaction, and you are approached by a suspicious character, press the CANCEL button, receive your card and leave quickly.

## Keeping kids safe

A great thing about kids is their natural trust in people, especially in adults. It's sometimes hard for parents to teach children to balance this trust with caution. But kids today need to know common-sense rules that can help keep them safe—and build the self-confidence they need to handle emergencies.

## Make sure your kids know

☐ How to call 911 or "0" in emergencies, and how to use a public phone. Help them practice making emergency phone calls. Be sure emergency numbers—police, fire, poison control, and emergency medical—are by all phones.

☐ Their full name, address, and phone number (including the area code), plus your work phone number. If you have a cellular phone and/or beeper, teach your children these numbers as well.

☐ How to walk confidently and stay alert to what's going on around them.

☐ To walk and play with friends, not alone.

☐ To refuse rides or gifts from anyone, unless it's someone both you and your child know and trust.

☐ To tell a trusted adult immediately if anyone, no matter who, touches them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.

## Safeguard your children

☐ Learn about warning signs that your child might be involved with drugs or gangs—learn how you can help steer your child away from them.

☐ Spend time listening to your children or just being with them. Help them find positive, fun activities that they can take part in.

☐ Always know—and know about—your child's activities. Know where your child is, and when he or she will return.

☐ Be sure you and your child are clear on your rules and expectations for activities. Make absolutely clear what is OK and what is not.

## Home alone—what kids should know

☐ What steps you want them to follow when they get home; such as phoning you at work or a neighbor or grandparent who is at home.

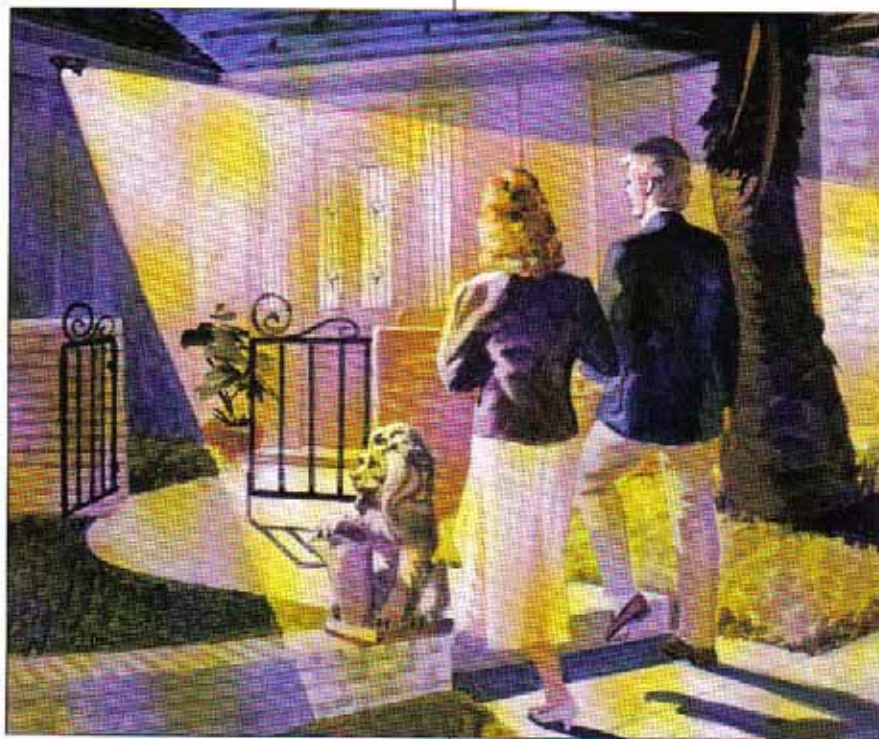
☐ Not to let strangers—adults or children—into the home for any reason.

☐ Not to tell telephone callers that they're alone.

☐ That door and window locks must always be used. Be sure your children know how to work them.

☐ Not to go into the home if a door is ajar or a window is broken, but to go to a neighbor's or public phone and call the police.

☐ Your rules about acceptable activities when you are not at home. Be very clear.





## Safe at home

If you're locked out of your home, can you still get in? ...through an unlocked window in the back, or using an extra key hidden under a flowerpot or up on a ledge? Remember: if you can break in, so can a burglar! A small investment of time and money can make your home more secure and can reduce your chances of being a victim of burglary, assault, or vandalism. Get to know your neighbors. Watchful neighbors who look out for you, as well as themselves, are a front-line defense against crime.

### Basic rules

- ☐ Make sure that all doors to the outside are metal or solid, 1¾" hardwood.
- ☐ Make sure all doors to the outside have good, sturdy locks—deadbolt locks with a minimum of 1½" bolt.
- ☐ Use the locks you have. Always lock up your home when you go out, even if it's "only for a few minutes."
- ☐ Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available bars or locks, or put a wooden dowel or broomstick in the door track.
- ☐ Make sure your windows, especially at ground level, have good locks—and use them!
- ☐ Make sure all porches and other possible entrances are well lighted.
- ☐ Trim any bushes or trees that hide doors or windows. Keep ladders, tools, toys, and recreational equipment inside when you're not using them.
- ☐ Don't hide your house keys under the door mat or in a flower pot. It's much wiser to give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
- ☐ Keep written records of all furniture, jewelry and electronic products. If possible, keep these records in a safe deposit box, fireproof safe or other secure

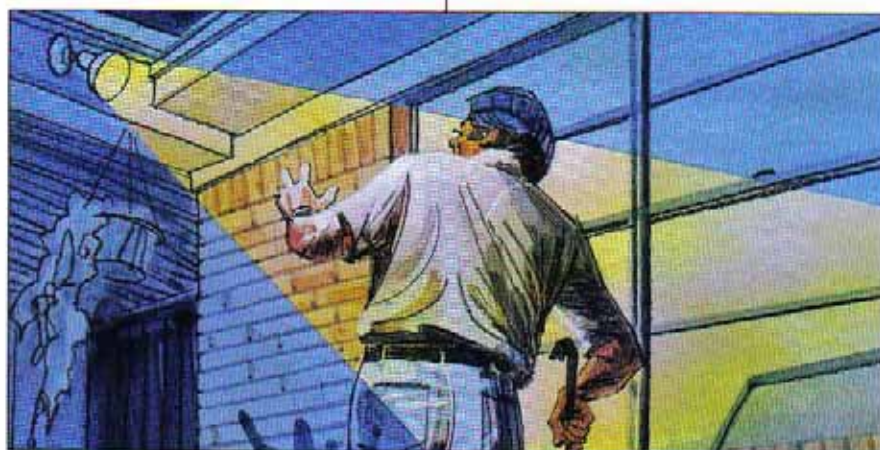
place. Take pictures or a video, and keep purchase information and serial numbers if available. These help law enforcement agencies track recovered items.

### For apartment dwellers

- ☐ Make sure that entrances, parking areas, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and other common areas are well lighted. Report burned-out bulbs or other problems to the manager.
- ☐ Make sure fire stairs are locked from the stairwell side, with an emergency exit at ground level.
- ☐ Laundry rooms and storage areas should always be kept locked unless a resident is actually inside.

### When you go away

- ☐ Ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail and newspapers,



and offer to return the favor.

- ☐ Leave word about when you're leaving, when you'll return, and how you can be reached in an emergency.
- ☐ Put automatic timers on at least two lights (and possibly a radio) to help your home look and sound lived-in.

## Reducing violence

- ☐ Look for ways to settle arguments and disagreements without violence. Remember: if you resort to violence to settle disputes, a child may well follow your example. Be a good role model.
- ☐ Use good manners to help ease tensions that can lead to violence. Teach kids that showing respect for themselves and for the needs of others can prevent crime.
- ☐ Report crimes and suspicious activities to police; agree to testify when necessary. If you want to live in a safe community, stand up for what you believe in.
- ☐ Don't support illegal activities, like buying stolen property or using illegal drugs. It's the wrong message to send to a child, and it involves you in criminal activity. It also encourages more crime that hurts you and your neighbors.



## Helping victims of crime

- ☐ Don't blame the victim or tell him or her not to be upset, angry, or afraid. Be a comfort, and do what you can to ease the situation.
- ☐ If the victim hasn't told the police, offer to help with a report.
- ☐ Offer to help the victim repair damage from a crime—replace a windowpane, install a new lock, replace important papers—or help with day-to-day needs like transportation, baby-sitting, and cooking.
- ☐ Be willing to just sit and listen to the victim talk about the crime. It can help some victims to talk, although others will not want to. Don't try to make a victim talk if he or she does not want to!
- ☐ Ask your local police about victims' counseling and support groups in the area, and encourage the victim to take part.
- ☐ Ask what you can do to help in the future, and make it a point to get back in touch.

## Avoiding frauds and scams

### Don't get stung!

Con artists are not always easy to spot. Smart, extremely persuasive, and aggressive, they invade your home through the telephone and the mail, advertise in reputable newspapers and magazines, and come to your door. Most people think they're too smart to fall for a scam. But con artists rob all

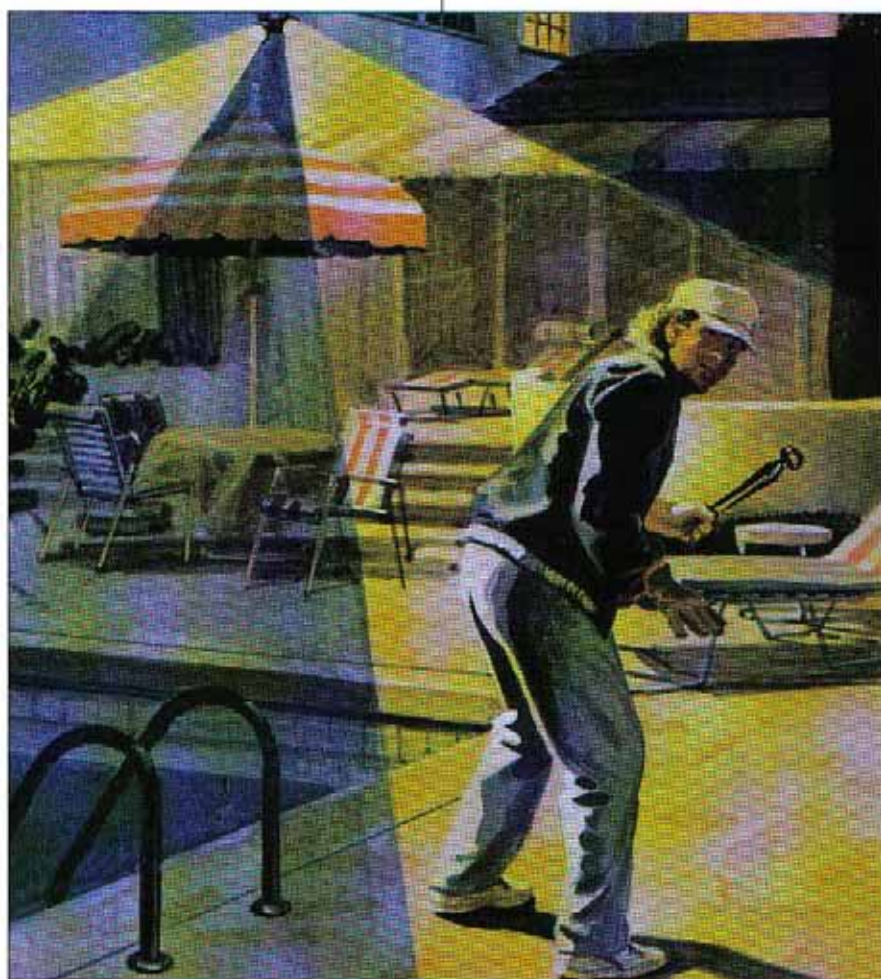
kinds of people—from investment counselors and doctors to teenagers and elderly widows—of billions every year. It's up to you to say no. Use common sense and learn about old and new scams.

### Quick tips

- ☐ Don't let greed overcome your common sense.
- ☐ Be wary of...
  - High-pressure sales.
  - Demands for "cash only."
  - Pressure for quick decisions.
  - Secret deals.
  - No-risk, high-yield investments.
- ☐ Get a second opinion from someone you trust.
- ☐ Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

## Dialing for your dollars

- ☐ If a caller asks for your credit card number to verify a free vacation or other gift, hang up. Your number may be used to charge purchases by phone.
- ☐ Make sure you know the charges before calling a 900 number. Most 800 numbers are free—900 numbers aren't.
- ☐ Be very suspicious if you receive a collect call from someone who says he's a law-enforcement officer with emergency information about a family member, requesting your phone card number to charge the call. Other variations of this scam include a telephone company investigator checking a system failure, or an FCC official investigating a complaint.
- ☐ Ask for a financial report if a caller requests a charitable donation. Reputable charities will





always send this information if you ask.

☐ Never make an investment with a stranger over the telephone.

## Uniting against crime

There are many things that you and your neighbors can do to help build a better, safer community—a community that won't attract or sustain crime. People just like you have cleared drug dealing out of their neighborhoods, made parks safe for children and sidewalks safe for play, curbed assaults, reduced muggings, wiped out graffiti and vandalism, improved local services, and started programs for teens and elders.

How? They worked together and as partners—with police, community leaders, teachers, clergy, and many others.

Instead of just answering calls for help, police in communities all around the country are working to help residents prevent or solve problems. Meanwhile, people—including police—working in community crime prevention can help you begin a variety of programs that will help cut down on crime:

- ☐ Neighborhood Watch.
- ☐ McGruff House Program (safe location for children).
- ☐ Operation Identification.
- ☐ Community cleanups.
- ☐ Before- and after-school programs.
- ☐ Drug and gang prevention activities.

## You and your neighbors are not alone!

There are so many programs and prevention tactics that can help against specific crimes that it's not possible to list them all here. For example:

- ☐ Rape can be reduced by educating women and girls in prevention strategies.
- ☐ People at work can benefit from workplace crime prevention programs.
- ☐ Schools need community support to make them safe, positive places to learn.

Crime prevention can address the needs of all kinds of people in all kinds of situations.

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and a number of other groups have materials that can help with many of these needs. Almost every state has a state government crime prevention office (usually in the Governor's or Attorney General's office) and/or a statewide association of people working in crime prevention.

The NCPC has identified thousands of local organizations that work in crime prevention; many will talk with you about their work and offer suggestions for you neighborhood's situation.

## Finding others already at work

Find out what's already going on. Groups that are already working against crime and drugs will welcome and help you. To find them, ask local law-enforcement officials, especially the crime prevention staff; check with community associations and civic groups, as well as area clubs.

Is there an existing group that should be involved in preventing crime and that might take on the job? Consider groups such as:

- ☐ A home-school organization like PTA?
- ☐ A tenants' group?
- ☐ A community service club such as Lions, Rotary, or Jaycees?
- ☐ A social club?
- ☐ A church, synagogue, or related group?
- ☐ A mental-health association?
- ☐ A taxpayers' or homeowners' association?

These are just some of the kinds of groups that have become bases for action.

What if there is no group ready to adopt crime prevention? Start a group in your neighborhood—even if it's just on your block. You don't have to be the leader, but you could organize the first meeting.

## A united community is a safe community

Once you get started organizing a Neighborhood Watch or other crime-prevention community organization, there is virtually no limit to the innovative ways to combat crime, and to the increased involvement of members of your community. Your neighborhood will not only become safer, more secure, but will have the added benefit of neighbors brought closer together, with opportunities to rekindle the sense of community that many areas of the country have lost over the years.

Programs like these can develop many different kinds of activities, such as group-organized clean-up projects, sport, game and hobby clubs, block parties, picnics, etc. A strong, healthy, *united* community is one of the most effective deterrents to crime!

But it all has to start somewhere. It can start with you—beginning today!

# For more information on preventing:

## Crime in your neighborhood

National Neighborhood  
Watch Program  
National Sheriffs' Association  
1450 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3490

## Crime in schools

National School Safety Center  
4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard,  
Suite 290  
Westlake Village, CA 91362  
805-373-9977

National Association of Elementary  
School Principals  
1615 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3438  
703-684-3345

## Drug and alcohol abuse

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol  
and Drug Information (NCADI)  
PO Box 2345  
Rockville, MD 20847-2345  
800-729-6686  
or 301-468-2600

Distributes a wide range of free  
information on alcohol and drug  
abuse. Materials are available in  
English and Spanish. Operates a  
computerized database and pro-  
vides a free catalog of materials.

### 800-COCAINE

Answers emergency questions  
about cocaine use.

### 800-662-HELP

This toll-free, 24-hour hotline can  
tell you how and where to get help  
for alcohol and other drug problems.

## Crime against senior citizens

### TRIAD

National Sheriffs' Association  
1450 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3490

## Violent crime

Pacific Center for  
Violence Prevention  
San Francisco General Hospital  
Building 1, Room 300  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-285-1793

National McGruff  
House Network  
1879 South Main Street,  
Suite 180  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115  
801-486-8768

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